

# WEST COAST REGION NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES



CHANNEL ISLANDS CORDELL BANK GULF OF THE FARALLONES MONTEREY BAY OLYMPIC COAST  
QUARTERLY SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL ACTIONS

## **Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council**

July 20, 2012

### **Artificial Reef Proposal Described to Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council**

The advisory council of Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary commented on an artificial reef project proposed by Chris Goldblatt, President and CEO of Fish Reef Project and his Senior Marine Biologist, Dr. Robert Abbott at their July 20, 2012 meeting. Although the proposed project is off the mainland coast and not within sanctuary boundaries, this council has a history of engaging on this topic in the local region. Mr. Goldblatt described his motivation for the project, the history of artificial reefs and current projects in California, and the method for constructing the project's reef balls. Dr. Abbott discussed current San Francisco bay projects that he is involved in and detailed the benefits and risks associated with artificial reefs. The presenters brought model reef balls and showed video footage of a recent pilot deployment of two of the structures installed 1,000 feet from shore at Arroyo Burro beach in June 2012. Council members engaged in a thoughtful discussion of the project and provided constructive criticism on the permitting and environmental review process, the stated ecological projections, and the purpose of the project. Also discussed was support for the project by recreational anglers and the possibility of it providing mitigation benefits.

### **Advisory Council to Develop Recommendations for Increasing Visibility and Marketability of Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary**

The Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) advisory council (council) voted at the latest council meeting on July 20, 2012 to form a subcommittee targeted at increasing awareness of the sanctuary within the local business and tourism sectors. Through learning about the ONMS Campaign of Engagement at the May 2012 meeting the council identified a need to increase public awareness of the ecological, recreational, economic, and aesthetic benefits of CINMS. The subcommittee will explore ways to reach both visitors and residents through outreach at local establishments such as the Santa Barbara Zoo, local restaurants, and local adventure outfitters. The council discussed the possibility of positioning the sanctuary as a natural resource destination, coupling tourism with the goals of preservation and protection. The formation of the subcommittee was unanimously supported by the council and six members volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

September 21, 2012

### **"Sanctuary Classic" Wrap-Up Report Provided to Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council**

On September 21, 2012, Tom Raftican and Jenny Armstrong with the Sportfishing Conservancy provided a report on the recently completed summer long "Sanctuary Classic" fishing and

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photography tournament. Ms. Armstrong showed pictures and videos, describing how the tournament grew in popularity over the summer, with 100 photos coming in from family fishing trips taken within the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. The four grand prize winners were announced: Aiden Rose (Channel Islands), Wesley Farrer (Florida Keys), Zane Toyon (Channel Islands), and Anthony and Michael Gonzales (Florida Keys). Mr. Raftican thanked sanctuary staff and local businesses for their support, indicated that he would like to see the program repeat next year, and hoped that the advisory council might consider writing a letter of support.

## **Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council**

September 6, 2012

### **Advisory Council Discusses Sanctuary Site Evaluation List**

The Cordell Bank Sanctuary Advisory Council discussed the history of the Sanctuary Site Evaluation List (SEL) and how reactivating the SEL is an important first step for designating new sanctuaries. The Council passed a motion that the Council Chair will draft a letter of support for SEL as an action item for the November 15th meeting.

## **Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council**

August 23, 2012

### **Advisory Council Amends Charter to Include Youth Seat**

The Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council amended their charter to include the addition of a non-voting youth primary and alternate seat. The goal of the council is to recruit these seats during the fall of 2012 and have the newest council members in-place by February 2013.

### **Advisory Council Sends Letter of Support to Washington, DC for the Reactivation of the Site Evaluation List**

The Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council followed the lead of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Advisory Council by voting to send a letter to Dr. Lubchenco and the Secretary of Commerce supporting reactivation of the Site Evaluation List (SEL). The letter states, "The SEL is an important and proven process by which local communities can start a public conversation about options for creating a national marine sanctuary off their coast."

### **Advisory Council Adopts Resolution Supporting Boundary Revision**

The Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council adopted a resolution in support of a proposed boundary revision of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) to include the San Francisco-Pacific Exclusion Area in the Northern Management Area. The area north of the San Mateo County line within MBNMS has been under the administration of the Gulf of the Farallones Sanctuary since 2008. Both sanctuaries work together to ensure effective and efficient management of the area.

## **Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council**

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August 16, 2012

**Advisory Council Continues Information Gathering on Forage Species**

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council (advisory council) received the second in a series of presentations on forage species. Josh Lindsay, National Marine Fisheries Service, provided a presentation on management of forage species from the federal level and Deb Wilson-Vandenberg, CA Department of Fish and Game, provided a presentation on management of forage species from the state level. David Crabbe, a member of the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC), provided his viewpoint on management of forage species from a council member perspective, discussing recent action by the PFMC to look into considering protections for currently unmanaged forage species. The advisory council will be discussing the Conservation Working Groups white paper on forage species at their October meeting.

**Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council**

July 16, 2012

**Special Meeting Focus on Research Opportunities on the Olympic Coast**

The OCNMS Advisory Council held its July meeting in Seattle at the University of Washington Applied Physics Lab in order to focus attention on ongoing research projects and potential research opportunities in the sanctuary. Climate change research, in particular, is a growing topic of interest for the OCNMS Advisory Council and the council explored ways in which much needed research into ocean acidification and other climate change impacts in the sanctuary could be promoted.

September 21, 2012

**Draft Climate Change Site Scenario Presented to Advisory Council**

On September 21, 2012, Dr. Ian Miller (WA Sea Grant), head of the OCNMS Advisory Council's Climate Change Site Scenario Working Group, presented an early draft of the site scenario to the OCNMS Advisory Council. The working group has over 20 active members who have been working on the site scenario for the past year. He estimates that the major authors of the report have invested more than 1200 volunteer hours in developing the draft site scenario. Development of the site scenario is the second step that OCNMS has taken in the Climate Smart Sanctuaries process (the first step being the development of a Climate Change Action Plan as part of the revised 2011 OCNMS Management Plan). The final OCNMS Climate Change Site Scenario is expected to be completed by the end of 2012 or early 2013.

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